

TOWN OF ABINGTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 2022

PRESENT: Gregory Belezerian (Vice-Chairman), Daniel Eddy, Russ Fuller, Paul Hagerty, Andrew Levrault, Christopher Murphy (1st Statistician), Barbara Rae, Matthew Salah (Chairman), Debra Libby (Recording Secretary - Minutes)

EXCUSED: Joe Rojas (Secretary)

GUESTS: Scott Lambiase, Town Manager, Sonia Hodge, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector, Leanne Adams, Clerk, Joe LaPoint, Water, Rene Vadeboncoeur, Golf

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Budget Review

Clerk (LeAnne Adams) – Increased Salaries (contractual); Data Processing Services (upgrade E-programs fee for service); Education/Training (conferences, election workers training); Printing (census reminders mailed to homeowners who have not returned the census). Salary for the Clerk is now in the budget and not done by article as in the past.

Elections (LeAnne Adams) – Three elections upcoming; Salaries (early voting staff on election days; additional hours in office for early voting; pay for election workers). Increased postage – absentee ballot costs (previously received grant funding but not expected for this year); Office supplies increased (labels for ballots, food for election workers. Mr. Hagerty questioned where grant funds were posted. Ms. Hodge noted funds were posted to the same account (revenue/expenses) and the line item was reduced by amount of grant received.

Registrars (LeAnne Adams) – Confirmation notices sent to homeowner requesting any changes to registration. Notices sent when removed from registration.

Golf (Rene Vadeboncoeur) – Very hectic year, increased business due to COVID, added staff, difficulty in getting equipment/materials. Mr. Vadeboncoeur noted record high earnings last year. Revenue increased due to more use and good weather. This is an enterprise account and budget is funded through fees.

Budget review – Salaries increased (minimum wage increase); Electricity (may be moved to Town operating budget); Credit Card fees based on usage (2.9% credit card fee). Mr. Belezerian questioned increasing fees by 3% for additional profit on credit card use. Mr. Vadeboncoeur noted course cost is the lowest in the area. Grounds Keeping – Implementing programs for fairways (installing a well to water fairways and greens); Dues/Licenses – Mr. Vadeboncoeur noted that last year some items were put in this line item that should have been in other line items. Mr. Vadeboncoeur noted upcoming projects (well; new equipment; pod for storage; repairs and maintenance for club house (new roof and windows). Reviewed/discussed food services – Not a high revenue source; have beer/wine license; snacks available. Reviewing establishing an app to book tee times. Mr. Vadeboncoeur will send article requests (purchase of equipment; repair/maintenance for club house; tree removal/ maintenance).

Water (Joe LaPoint) – Reviewed PFAS requirements (man-made compounds in water – Teflon, metals, etc.); EPA/DEP requirements reviewed. Government compliance discussed. Notices mailed to all residents if not in compliance. Joint water budget based on water usage (Abington 47%, Rockland 53%). Budget funded through Water Revenue account.

Budget review (Joint Budget) – Salaries increased (contractual); fuel increased 10%; chemicals increased (lab costs \$1,000 per test); building maintenance decreased. Total increase = 3%. Replacement of meters in 5 year capital plan.

Water Budget – Salaries increased inclusive of police details; reviewed costs for vehicle maintenance/repairs; distribution of water; water main breaks; meter replacement; materials for upkeep of equipment.

Articles – \$25,000 backhoe lease (to be removed from Article); Sick leave buyback (contractual); Treatment plant upgrades (in Capital plan); Sludge removal (\$25,000); Firewall (computer hacking protection). Reviewed/discussed \$12,000,000 PFAS upgrade – treatment at Hannigan/Myers plants related to DEP/EPA requirements (equipment/chemical costs); reviewing grant possibilities. May need to bond for funding of PFAS upgrade and this would increase rates to homeowners. Reviewed filter uses and future needs; phases of PFAS treatments. Bond would be for 20 years and will not affect budget but will cause a rate increase.

General discussion – Ms. Hodge reviewed Governor's budget – unrestricted up 2.7%; Chapter 70 fund increased \$2,000,000 (fully funded student opportunity program; funds for education use only). Use of Chapter 70 funds to be reviewed with School Department.

Liaison Reports – Mr. Belezerian noted he has contacted John Stone (DPW) regarding touring the facilities. After a brief discussion it was decided to do a tour on February 5, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Lambiase updated new Fire Station – considering DPW site; continue purchase of land at Gliniewicz Way. Mr. Belezerian questioned if land at Gliniewicz Way could be used for anything. Mr. Lambiase noted permission needed from any entities involved for what land to be used for.

Board of Health (Barbara Rae) – Mr. Lambiase and Ms. Hodge will be presenting the BOH budget.

Liaison assignments – Water will be Andrew Levrault/Russ Fuller. Daniel Eddy will be second liaison for School Department and South Shore Vo-tec.

Next meeting 2/2/2022

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee at 9:30 p.m.